



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 6, 2005

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Hon. John Chiang's Office

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Web Site: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/>

ONLY NINE DAYS LEFT!

Free Income Tax Return Preparation and E-Filing Offered by the Office of Hon. John Chiang, Chair of the State Board of Equalization

There are just NINE days left! The April 15th deadline for filing your Federal and State income tax returns is fast approaching.

“For the fourth year in a row, my office is proud to provide FREE Federal and State income tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Many of the individuals we assisted last year filed electronic returns for the first time and applied for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), because my office was available to help.” said John Chiang, Chair, State Board of Equalization.

“Taxpayers can file their tax returns electronically through my office without paying burdensome tax preparation fees. Those individuals who file electronically generally receive their refunds in half the time of those who file paper returns, saving excessive interest and other charges taxpayers would incur by using more costly filing services.”

VITA appointments are available through April 15, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at Mr. Chiang's Los Angeles office at 660 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2050. To schedule an appointment please call (213) 239-8506.

Alternatively, VITA and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites are also located at many neighborhood community centers, senior citizen centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site please call (800) 829-1040.

It is important that taxpayers bring all of their tax records which include: Form W-2 wage and earning statements from all employers; Form 1099s for interest, dividends and non-employee compensation; a copy of last year's Federal and State returns, if available; and other relevant information about income and expenses. Taxpayers should have all the required social security numbers for their dependents, any amounts paid for day care, and their bank routing numbers for direct deposit of their expected refund.

If you need further assistance or have any additional questions or concerns, please call (213) 239-8506.

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